



Naamghar Association of America

NEWSLETTER

[HTTPS://NAAMGHAR.ORG/](https://naamghar.org/)

Volume 6/Issues 2/ April-June 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE *BOR-MEDHI*

Dear community members and well-wishers of NAAM,

We are into the summer of 2023 and luckily the Covid situation appears to be behind us. Let's hope it continues that way.

Now coming to this second quarter newsletter of 2023 from NAAM, it is my pleasure to highlight a few key points:

- NAAM (a 501(c)3 non-profit spiritual – cultural trust) is happy to be participating at the Assam Convention – 2023 (AC-2023), held at the Philadelphia area with a collaboratively driven process from AANA (Assam Association of North America) and NEIACO (Northeast Indian American Cultural Organization), a 501(c)3 non-profit entity.

We have been busy lately practicing an *ankiya Bhaona* performance at the convention, titled “*Haradhanu Bhanga*”. It will have all the three basic segments, including a live performance of *Gayan – Bayan* with Khol-Taal, the *Sutradhar* dance narrating the story briefly, followed by the dance-drama of the main *Bhaona*.

- I will be releasing my book “Naamghar in America,” at the AC-2023, with a short

presentation on the book at the ASSNA (Assam Sahitya Sabha – North America) meeting of the convention. The sale proceeds (\$20 per copy, shipping / handling extra) will all be donated to NAAM directly. The convention souvenir will carry an advertisement of the book at the back cover page of the convention souvenir with a QR code. I am hoping that volunteers will help us manning the desk of NAAM at the convention to actively promote the book sale and distribution to collect the sale proceeds and any additional donation.

I am including a brief article on the book in this issue highlighting the chapters in the Table of Contents and the list of References. It also shows how you all may wish to get engaged to drive the cause of NAAM.

I am looking forward to your feedback and continued co-operation to drive the processes for our Naamghar mission.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Dr. Binoy K. Bordoloi, *Bor Medhi*

Email: binoy.bordoloi@gmail.com



UPDATE ON FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

- **DONATION TO NAAM FOR TAX BENEFIT:** Consider making NAAM as one of the beneficiaries of your estate planning and/or donate for potential tax benefits for the current tax year (please consult your tax adviser for details).
- *If your employer matches your donation to a charitable organization (direct or through payroll deductions), please add “Naamghar Association of America, Inc.” as one of the beneficiaries.*
- NAAM is soliciting your donations via its website (<https://naamghar.org/>), NAAM Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/NaamgharAssociationOfAmerica/>), and the “DONATE” button on this page to fund a community

Naamghar in North America.

- NAAM is looking forward to an active participation of the community (Assamese diaspora) for realizing a common dream of building a Naamghar in North America. Please use the “DONATE” button below and/or contact Dr. Binoy Bordoloi at binoy.bordoloi@gmail.com for additional information. Thank you!



Please contribute to NAAM's effort to build a naamghar in North America:



RECENT AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

NAAM participation in 44th Assam Convention, Philadelphia, USA, Jun 30th - Jul 2nd, 2023

Naamghar Association of America (NAAM) is going to present an abridged version of *bhaona* - "Hara-Dhanu Bhanga" - which depicts the courting of Sita, by Lord Ram and other kings.

The *bhaona* is being performed by members of NAAM along with 2nd and 3rd generation Assamese-Americans, thereby fulfilling one of the missions of NAAM - to preserve, promote, and celebrate the legacy of Srimanta Sankardeva and inspire the current and future generations of the Assamese diaspora to explore and embrace his philosophy and contributions to the Assamese society.

You are cordially invited to view this *bhaona* presentation with family at the 44th Assam Convention , Philadelphia.

Gayan-Bayan :

Dr. Babul Bora
Dr. Deva Bora
Dr. Binoy Bordoloi
Dr. Kumud Das

Sutradhar:

Priyadarshini Inman

Bhaona Performers:

Ajoy Bordoloi (Lord Ram)
Niren Choudhury (Rishi Viswamitra)
Purandar Sarmah (Raja Janaka)
Dr. Anjali Bordoloi (Sita)
Shrestha Khound (Sita Sakhi)
Naya Kalita Mukul (Sita Sakhi)
Niraj Barbara (King)
Bhaskar Phukan (King)
Rahul Kalita (Parasurama)

Technical Assistants:

Shyam DevChoudhury (Audio Visual Effect/ Costume/ Makeup)
Hemanga Kashyap (Prop Assistant)



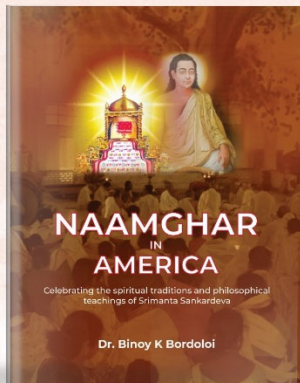
FEATURED ARTICLE #1

“NAAMGHAR IN AMERICA” – A GLIMPSE FROM THE BOOK BY DR. BINOY KR. BORDOLOI

COVER PAGE

EVERY PURCHASE SUPPORTS NAAM, EMPOWERING SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL INITIATIVES!

* (NAAMGHAR ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.), A NON-PROFIT 501C3



SCAN THE QR CODE TO
DONATE



www.naamghar.org

It has been a meditative exercise for me and I really look forward to sharing it with you all. Our goal is to build a Naamghar in North America that is not just physical in nature but is in sync with a virtuous mental state and elevates every person to be more spiritual and a better human being.

We want to build a Naamghar that celebrates the spiritual traditions and philosophical teachings of Srimanta Sankardeva

Dr Binoy K Bordoloi

TABLE OF CONTENT

1. Origin of Srimanta Sankardeva
2. Contemporary Events and Timeline of Sankardeva's Life
3. Guru Nanak and Srimanta Sankardeva – A Comparative Study
4. Sankardeva and His Teachings
5. Sankardeva and His Social Reforms
6. Culture of Assam and Relevance of Bhaona
7. Majuli- A Place of Wonder
8. India and the Concept of Nation-state
9. Rediscovering Hinduism
10. Sanatana Dharma :Relevance of Studying Hinduism in an Academic Environment
11. Value of Hindu Culture for the World
12. Principles of Hinduism Influencing Great Leaders
13. Srimanta Sankardeva and Eka Sarana Nama Dharma

PREFACE

Naamghar in America book project is a compilation of my newsletter articles and the research I accumulated over the years around Srimanta Sankardeva, *Eka Sarana Nama Dharma*, and Naamghar. It consists of 18 chapters and takes you on a journey of different aspects of Srimanta Sankardeva's life, the origin of *Eka Sarana Nama Dharma*, and its comparison with four major religions of the world.

14. Comparison of Beliefs in Hinduism, Christianity, Judaism, and Islamism
15. Comparing Christianity with Eka Sarana Nama Dharma (Neo-Vaishnavite Hinduism)
16. Eighteen Lessons from Bhagavad Gita
17. Naamghar in North America
18. About NAAM - What we offer - Contact NAAM

References

#1: Dr Sanjib K Borkakoti, President, Society for Srimanta Sankardeva, Assam, India; www.Sankardeva.com and www.drSanjib.net ; author, “Place of Srimanta Sankardeva in All-India Perspective”, published by Mahapurush Sankardeva Kala-Kristi Gavesona Kendra, Jorhat, Assam, India (2007); other books include “Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankardeva” (2022); ISBN 9789394201866; “*Purnanga Katha Gurucharit*”.

#2: Kalyan Viswanathan, president of the Hindu University of America (www.hua.edu) ; , the Fall-2020 class attended by the author, ‘HSF5000 Orientation to Hindu Studies’.

#3: Dr Brian Weiss, MD, author of the international bestseller “Many Lives, Many Masters” (first published in US in 1988), and several related books including “Through Time Into Healing”, “Only Love is Real”, “Messages from the Masters”, all published by Piatkus, and others. Dr Brian Weiss, a psychiatrist who lives and practices in Miami, Florida, USA; he is a graduate of Columbia University and Yale Medical School, and is the former Chairman of Psychiatry at the Mount Sinai Medical Center. (Author has attended a seminar presented by Dr Weiss in New York City)

#4: Dr Bimal Phukan, author of book titled, “Srimanta Sankardeva : Vaishnava Saint of Assam” (2010)

#5: Dr Sri Sri Pitambar Deva Goswami, author of book titled, “The Blazing Talent – Srimanta Sankardeva”(2016)

#6 Dr. Binoy K. Bordoloi, article, “Life & Living : Influence of Majuli Sattras in Assam”, published in the annual convention souvenir *Luitor Pora Mississippi* of Asam Sahitya Sabha North America, July 2015.

#7 J B Rupam; our website www.naamghar.org for Naamghar Association of America (NAAM) show the participation at the 2nd World Virtual Choir Festival 2020, 1-6 December 2020, Bandung Choral Society, Indonesia, led by J B Rupam as Choir Conductor; Gold Medal recipient of the Borgeet Choir, “Gobinda Chintohu”; www.naamghar.org

#8 Nilesh Oak, lectures on Sanaatan Sanskriti; his video’s are in YouTube.

#9 Dr Pabitra Bharali, Digboi College, Assam, India “VAISHNAVISM IN MAJULI: CULTURE AND ACCULTURATION”; Academic Press (2021)

#10 Gitali Saikia, “Srimanta Sankardeva: Saviour of the Subaltern”, Academic Press

#11 Sahityarathi Laxminath Bezbaroa: Mahapurush Sri Sankardeva Sankardeva and Sri Madhabdeva, 1st ed 1914, 3rd ed 1988

#12 Col Dr. Dalvinder Singh Grewal; an excerpt from a blog by Col Dr. Dalvinder Singh Grewal; dalvinder45@yahoo.co.in

13 Matthew Heeney (a faculty member at Columbia Univ., New York City), and Margaret

D'Aversa (Research Fellow at Johnson & Johnson, New Jersey, USA); author's discussion and interview on Christianity

#14 Dr. Ratul C. Borah, "*Srimanta Sankardeva or Manobatabadi Chinta Aru Samprotik Samaj*", a collection of articles by Dr. Ratul C. Borah (2022)

#15 Dr. Nobin C. Bordoloi (late father of the author), from recorded notes in his diary dated 2000; "Comparison of beliefs in Hinduism, Christianity and Judaism"

#16 The late Dr. Qutbuddin Ahmed of Jorhat; author's face-to-face interview with him on Islam concepts

#17 Encyclopædia Britannica, 2022

#18 Phil Goldberg
<pgoldberg42@gmail.com>; <https://philipgoldberg.com/>;
<https://www.facebook.com/PhilipGoldbergAuthor>; <https://www.spiritual-integrity.org/>

About the Author



Dr. Binoy K. Bordoloi is from Jorhat, Assam. He completed his Ph.D. (New York University, New York) and MBA (University of California, Los Angeles), and worked at leading pharmaceutical and medical device companies including Baxter

Healthcare Corp, and Johnson & Johnson before starting the entrepreneurial pursuit of Bordoloi Biotech LLC and Bordoloi Biotech India Pvt Ltd. He is a member of AANA, AFNA and ASSNA, Managing Trustee of NIEDSWET, and currently serves as the Chairman of the spiritual-cultural trust NAAM.

What is NAAM?

NAAM, Naamghar Association of America, Inc. is a non-profit, 501(c)3, spiritual and cultural organization formed to construct and manage a Naamghar for the Assamese diaspora to celebrate and perform the spiritual traditions and philosophical teachings of Srimanta Sankardeva.

What We Offer

We offer you a place, a forum to express and experience spiritual awakening following the traditions propagated by Srimanta Sankardeva, including but not limited to regular performance of *Naam-Praxanga* and ultimately to build a Naamghar in North America.

How to Get Involved?

We need your help in achieving the dream of building a Naamghar in the United States. NAAM is open to everyone who is interested in building the Naamghar. There are several ways you may get involved:

- Subscribe to the NAAM quarterly newsletter by sending an email to: info@naamghar.org. Join the NAAM Working Group.

- If you are interested in getting involved actively in NAAM's mission, please join the NAAM by sending an email to: Info@naamghar.org,

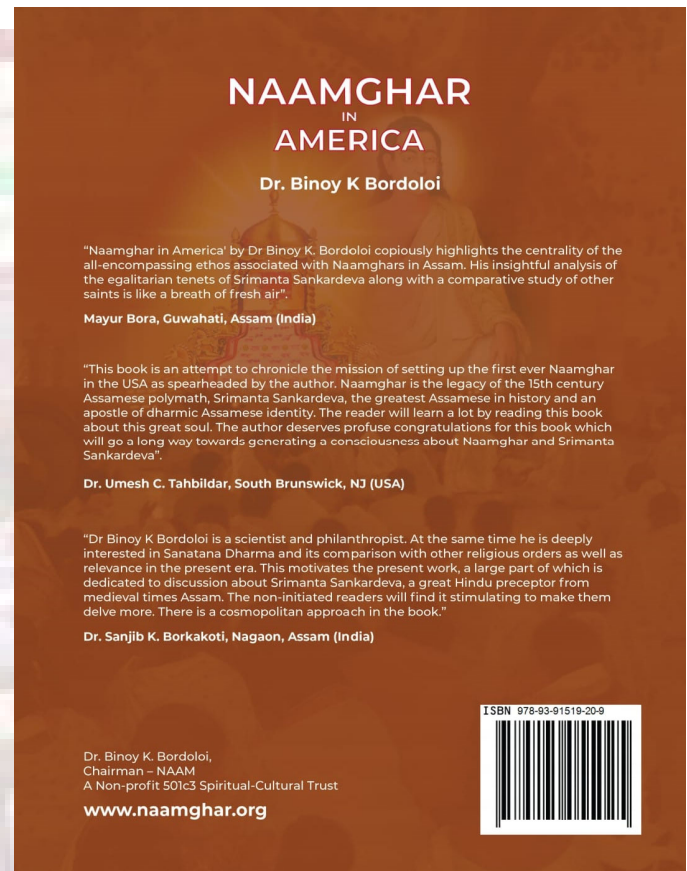
- The Working Group meets regularly first Sunday of the month at 9 pm EST via teleconference/video conference to discuss various issues that are related to NAAM and its mission and goals.

- Contribute your inputs, time and financial resources to NAAM.

Contact Us :

Naamghar Association of America Inc. (NAAM) ; Email: Info@naamghar.org Website: www.naamghar.org

Reviewers' comments:



Q&A

Q: What is NAAM?

A: Naamghar Association of America, Inc. (NAAM) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit spiritual and cultural organization formed to construct and manage a Naamghar for the Assamese diaspora to celebrate and perform the spiritual traditions and philosophical teachings of Srimanta Sankardeva. With strong ties with all the *Satras* of Assam, NAAM seek to provide a forum for learned spiritual leaders and traditional artistes to share their knowledge and talent with the current and future generations of the Assamese diaspora.

Q: What are the immediate goals of NAAM?

A: Some of the immediate goals of NAAM include spreading awareness on NAAM initiatives, build a digital media platform, plan for fund raising, and participate regularly in Naam-proxongo. NAAM seeks volunteers from the large Assamese diaspora across the United States to achieve these goals. Please join us (details at the bottom of this newsletter). In our planning activity, the first

priority is to identify what is needed to establish a temporary *Naamghar*. This will make the *Guru Axon*, consecrated by the Sri Sri Auniati Satra Satradhikar, more easily accessible to the public, while we work on the longer-term project of building a permanent *Naamghar*.

Q: Does NAAM collaborate with other organizations?

A: NAAM is actively seeking to collaborate with all community organizations which are willing to help achieve NAAM's mission. NAAM plans to have meaningful discussion with all organizations in our community; please contact us if you would like to be a part of this conversation (contact details at the bottom).



HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH NAAM?

JOIN THE NAAM WORKING GROUP (WG): We need your help in achieving the dream of building a Naamghar in North America. Therefore, NAAM is open to everyone who is interested in building the Naamghar.

sending an email to: Naaminfo@Naamghar.org. The WG meets regularly via teleconference/video conference to discuss various issues that are related to NAAM and its mission and goals.

If you are interested in getting involved actively in NAAM's mission, please join the NAAM by



NAAM WORKING GROUP TEAM MEMBERS

Following individuals comprise the current NAAM working group (WG) team. ***We invite all individuals who are sincerely interested in the Mission and Goals of NAAM to join the NAAM team.*** The current WG members are:

- Iswar Agarwalla, NC
- Tutumoni Baishya, Assam
- Niraj Barbara, PA
- Dr. Sanjib Bhuyan, NJ
- Pranab Bora, WI
- Lolit Bora, PA
- Subhasini Bora, NC
- Dr. Babul Borah, OH
- Utpal Borah, VA
- Dr. Binoy Bordoloi, NJ
(Bor-medhi)
- Manoranjan Bordoloi, NJ
- Monidipa Bordoloi, CA
- Susanto Bordoloi, CT
- Chirayu Kr. Borooah, CA
- Malabika Brahma, NJ
- Debojit Chowdhury, CA
- Niren Choudhury, NJ
- Dr. Bikul Das, MA
- Namita Das, VA
- Dr. Pradip Das, MO
- Rupam Das, Assam
- Shyam DevChoudhury, PA
(Secretary)
- Dr. Saswati Datta, OH
- Hemanga Dutta, NJ
- Panchali Dutta, NJ
- Sawmick Dutta, CA
- Prandeep Gogoi, NJ
- Ajoy Hazarika, NY
- Kamalakshi Hazarika, NJ
- Suranjyot Hazarika, NJ
- Priyadarshini Inman, NC
- Dr. Jukti Kalita, NJ
- Lalita Kalita, IL
- Rashmi Kalita, CA
- Sangaurav Kaushik, NC
- Nilanjona Mahanta, CA
- Nabanita Mazumdar, WA
- Chayanika Mohan, NC
- Rachna Nath, AZ
- Shakhyar Neog, NJ
- Dr. Yashwant Pathak, FL
- Lelkhika Pathak, Assam
- Anu Perlmutter, VA
- Nilakshi Phukan, NC
- Gayatree Prasad, CA
- Dr. Purandar Sarmah, NJ
(Treasurer)
- Vavani Sarmah, CA

Contact Us

Email: Naaminfo@Naamghar.org

Website: www.naamghar.org

Facebook: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NaamgharAssociationOfAmerica>

